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BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958



BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

1958

Medical Officer of Health:

Margaret H. F. Turnbull
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health
Inspector:

M. M. Dixon, M.I.Mun.E.,
C.R.S.I., M.I.H.E.

Additional Public Health
Inspector:

E. G. Shaw, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.S.H.

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BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH

College House,
Bridgnorth.
November, 1959.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
Bridgnorth Corporation.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1958.

Following the same general lines as in previous years, it deals with those matters pertaining to health and environmental hygiene with which your Public Health and Housing Committees have been particularly concerned.

1958 can be regarded as a year of progress - progress in connection with housing, slum clearance, the new public conveniences and the new refuse tip. In the last few Annual Reports lack of advancement in any of these fields has had to be bemoaned. It is very gratifying therefore, on this occasion, to be able to refer to material progress in respect of every one of them.

In fact, taken as a whole, this may be considered a "good" Report - good in the sense that there are more favourable comments to be made about the matters reviewed than there are adverse ones.

A few brief remarks on the main points from each section may be useful at this stage.

1. The health statistics for the year are all satisfactory. The feature most deserving of mention is the absence of any infant deaths. In 1951 there was likewise no infant mortality, and since 1952 this rate has shown a steady annual decline.

The birth rate is our highest in the last 4 years, and is well above the average for England and Wales.

With only one still-birth during the year, the still-birth rate is pleasingly low.

There were more deaths than in the previous two years, and the death rate is just below the national average. Of those who died however, one third were over the age of 80, and only 2 were under the age of 40.

2. The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was remarkably low. Only 6 notifications were received, of which 5 were cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis.

This low total is chiefly due to the absence of measles among the children, as this disease has been responsible for the majority of notifications in previous years. Measles generally has a biennial cycle in any community. As two years have passed already without any significant outbreak, it is to be expected that a large number of cases will occur in 1959.

3. Definite progress towards the solution of two of our perennial environmental problems was made during the year. A site for new public conveniences was found in Listley Street, and a site for a new refuse tip was found on the Old Worcester Road.

No satisfactory solution of the problems connected with the sewage disposal works was reached, unfortunately. The effluent going into the river did not satisfy the Severn River Board, and the sludge beds still failed to fulfil their function adequately.

No further progress was made with the proposed sewerage of Quatford.

4. The Council's decision to resume its house-building programme after an interval of nearly 3 years is doubly welcome as, in addition to satisfying a need of the community, it will allow progress in slum clearance to be made.

Construction of the 46 houses which will complete the Grove Estate was scheduled to begin early in 1959. As the next phase of the programme, land between the Sydney Cottage Estate and Tasley Bank will be developed.

Work on the grouped dwellings for old people on the Sydney Cottage Estate was commenced before the end of 1958, but this is a special project and outside the general programme.

As the first major step in slum clearance, two clearance areas were declared - the whole of Foundry Yard, and all of Orchard Row. With about 400 substandard houses to be dealt with altogether the task is quite a formidable one and will occupy many years.

In conclusion, I should like to express my appreciation of the valuable assistance given to me in the preparation of this Report by Mr. M. M. Dixon and Mr. E. G. Shaw, who collected and collated all the facts and figures contained in Sections C, D and E.

The continued co-operation and help afforded to me throughout the year by the Public Health Inspectors, by our clerical assistants and by all my colleagues at College House is also gratefully acknowledged.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION ASTATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONSGENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough, in acres	- 2,645
Estimated Population (mid-1958)	- 6,460
Number of Inhabited Houses	- 2,211
Rateable Value of Borough (at 31.12.58)	- £82,150
Estimated Product of ld. Rate (at 31.12.58)	- £310

VITAL STATISTICSPOPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district at mid-1958 was 6,460 - an increase of 130 on the corresponding estimate for 1957. This figure is employed in the calculation of the Birth and Death rates.

The natural increase in population for the year i.e. the figure by which the number of live births exceeds the number of deaths, was 34.

Estimated Mid-Year Population: 1950-1958

Year	Population	Natural Increase of Population
1950	6,160	34
1951	6,158	3
1952	6,045	18
1953	6,133	29
1954	6,270	61
1955	6,320	21
1956	6,330	27
1957	6,430	43
1958	6,460	34

BIRTHSLive Births 1958

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	60	2	62
Female	60	2	62
Total	120	4	124
Rate per 1000 of population	18.6	0.6	19.2

Crude Birth-rate per 1000 of population	- 19.2
Standardised Birth-rate per 1000 of population	- 19.2
Birth-rate for England and Wales, 1958	- 16.4

There were 124 live births in the Borough during 1958, 62 of each sex. This total is 16 in excess of that for 1957. Of the 124, 4 were illegitimate (3.2%)

The Birth-rate for the year was 19.2 per 1000 of the population, the highest since 1954, and higher than the average rate for England and Wales for 1958 which was 16.4.

Live Births 1950-1958

Year	No. of live births	No. of illegitimate live births	Standardised Birth Rate per 1000 of pop.
1950	127	6	21.7
1951	102	4	17.1
1952	117	5	20.0
1953	105	7	17.8
1954	128	8	20.4
1955	116	4	18.4
1956	103	3	16.3
1957	108	4	16.8
1958	124	4	19.2

STILL-BIRTHS, 1958

Male	- 0
Female	- 1
Total	- 1

Still Birth rate per 1000 total births	- 8.0
Still Birth rate per 1000 total births (England and Wales)	- 21.6

Only one still-birth occurred in the area during the year, giving the very low still-birth rate of 8.0 per 1000 total births (i.e. live births plus still births). This a pleasing reduction on the corresponding rate for 1957 which was 52.6, but as mentioned in the Annual Report for that year, this rate is liable to show quite marked annual fluctuations. This is clearly seen in the table below

Still Births, 1950-1958

Year	No. of live births	No. of still births	Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births
1950	127	6	45.1
1951	102	4	37.7
1952	117	0	0
1953	105	0	0
1954	128	6	44.8
1955	116	2	16.9
1956	103	2	19.0
1957	108	6	52.6
1958	124	1	8.0

DEATHS

Male	-	40
Female	-	50
Total	-	90

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of population	-	13.9
Standardised Death Rate per 1000 of population	-	11.0
Death Rate for England and Wales	-	11.7

90 inhabitants of the Borough died during 1958, (40 males and 50 females) as compared with 65 in 1957.

The Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the population was therefore 13.9, and the Standardised Death Rate which is comparable with the corresponding rate for other areas, was 11.0

Deaths, 1950-1958

Year	No. of Deaths	Standardised Death Rate per 1000 of population
1950	93	12.8
1951	99	13.4
1952	101	13.8
1953	76	10.4
1954	67	8.9
1955	95	12.5
1956	76	9.7
1957	65	7.7
1958	90	11.0

The Registrar General's Annual Return gives the causes of death as follows:-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1958

			Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	-
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	-
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	-
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	-
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	-
6	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	-
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	-
8	Measles	..	..	..	-
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	-
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	4	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	-
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	3	5	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	-
16	Diabetes	..	..	1	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	11	14
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	7	2
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	-	1
20	Other heart disease	..	..	4	8
21	Other circulatory disease	..	..	1	-
22	Influenza	..	..	1	-
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	2
24	Bronchitis	..	..	1	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	1	-
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	-	-

			Male	Female	Total
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	..	..	-	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ..	..	..	-	-
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ..	..	..	1	-
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	..	..	-	-
31	Congenital malformations ..	..	..	-	-
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	..	..	1	8
33	Motor Vehicle accidents ..	..	..	1	-
34	All other accidents ..	..	..	-	-
35	Suicide ..	..	..	2	-
36	Homicide and operations of war ..	..	..	-	-
					—
			TOTALS	40	50
					90

Cause of Death	Male	Female	% of total No. of deaths
Diseases of heart and circulation	23	25	53.3%
Malignant Disease	8	9	18.9%

Affections involving the heart and Circulatory System together accounted for the greatest number of deaths in 1958, i.e. 48, which is 53.3% of the total number. In recent years such conditions have been responsible for just over or just under half the total deaths per annum.

Cancer, including all forms of malignant disease caused 17 deaths in 1958, i.e. 18.9% of the total (20% in 1957.) Of these 17, 4 were due to malignant disease of the lung or bronchus (2 in 1957.)

Age Distribution of Deaths, 1958

Age at death in years	Male	Female	Total
under 1	-	-	-
20-29	-	1	1
30-39	-	1	1
40-49	3	3	6
50-59	5	1	6
60-69	9	8	17
70-79	16	12	28
80-89	7	21	28
90-99	-	3	3
All ages	40	50	90

INFANT MORTALITYDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 1958

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	0	0	0
Female	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births - Nil
 Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births
 (England and Wales, 1958) - 22.5

It is pleasing to record that there were no infant deaths in the Borough during 1958. The last time this occurred was in 1957, and each year since 1952 there has been a satisfactory decline in infant mortality.

Infant Mortality 1950-1958

Year	No. of live births	No. of Infant deaths	Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	I.M.R. for E & W
1950	127	5	39.4	.
1951	102	0	0	29.6
1952	117	4	34.2	27.6
1953	105	3	28.6	26.8
1954	128	3	23.4	25.5
1955	116	2	17.2	24.9
1956	103	1	9.7	23.8
1957	108	1	9.3	23.0
1958	124	0	Nil	22.5

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were again no deaths associated with pregnancy or childbirth in 1958. None have occurred during the nine years for which records are available.

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

No material changes in the Health Services in this area took place during 1958. Much that appears in this Section has therefore been recorded in previous Annual Reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

The names and qualifications of the Public Health Officers of this Authority are listed at the commencement of the Report.

Mr M.M.Dixon joined the staff in January 1958, having been appointed to the combined post of Borough Surveyor, Chief Public Health Inspector, and Water Engineer.

As from 1st April 1958, the Medical Officer of Health has devoted 1/11th of her time to Bridgnorth Corporation, 2/11ths to Bridgnorth Rural District Council, 2/11ths to Wenlock Corporation, and 6/11ths to Salop County Council.

HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES.

The Hospital and Specialist Services are provided and administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

In-patient and Out-patient facilities are available at Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary, and at the various hospitals in Wolverhampton, Shrewsbury, and Kidderminster.

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Isolation Hospital, Wolverhampton, or to Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury.

Patients with Tuberculosis receive treatment in Shirlett Sanatorium, or Cross Houses Hospital.

The elderly chronic sick are admitted to New Cross Hospital Wolverhampton, or to Park Street Hospital, Shifnal. Waiting-lists for chronic sick beds are unfortunately very long. It is greatly to be hoped, therefore, that the proposed accommodation for such cases at Bridgnorth Infirmary will be provided as soon as possible.

GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL, AND SUPPLEMENTARYOPHTHALMIC SERVICES.

The Authority responsible for these services is the Salop Executive Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Maternal and Child Welfare.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance Services.

Prevention of illness, care and after-care.

Domestic Help Service.

As Local Health Authority for this area, Salop County Council is responsible for the above services.

(a) Maternal and Child Welfare.

The Monday afternoon Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic continued to be held throughout the year at the Welfare Centre, Northgate, and was very well attended. Owing to lack of support, the morning sessions were discontinued after January, except on the first Monday in each month when they were held as usual.

For the benefit of mothers living on the Grove Estate, and in response to popular demand, a Child Welfare Clinic was started in the new Church Hall on the Estate.

It commenced in July 1958, and is held on the 4th Thursday afternoon in each month from 2.0 till 4.30 p.m.

Attendances were low to begin with, but were improving towards the end of the year.

(b) Welfare Foods.

There were no changes in the arrangements for the sale of the Welfare Foods. These are available at the Welfare Centre on Monday afternoons, at the Grove Clinic during Clinic hours, and at Low Town Post Office and No. 37 West Castle Street during business hours.

(c) Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting, Home Nursing.

Several changes in the Nursing staff took place during the year, but for most of the time there were three District-Nurse-Midwives working in the Borough.

One full-time Health Visitor does all the Health Visiting and School Nursing duties in the town.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation.

Under the County Council's scheme, Vaccination against Small-Pox, and Immunisation against Whooping-Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner or at any Child Welfare Centre.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations, Immunisation against Whooping-Cough, Diphtheria, and Tetanus is given separately at the Clinics, and not by means of the "three-in-one" injections which have become popular in recent years.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

A very extensive programme of Poliomyelitis Vaccination was organised by the County Health Department during 1958.

The Ministry of Health had recommended in September 1957 that vaccination should be offered, before the summer of 1958, to all children up to the age of 15 years, and to expectant mothers.

From February onwards, therefore, special sessions for this purpose were held at all the schools in the town, and at the Welfare Centre. Routine School Medical Inspection work was suspended to allow the vaccination programme to proceed.

In September, the Ministry recommended that the arrangements of Local Health Authorities should be extended to include those born in the years 1933 to 1942, and that third injections should be introduced.

To cater for the 15-25 year age-group, monthly evening sessions at Welfare Centres were started at the latter end of the year. The initial response from this group was disappointing on the whole.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This protection was offered to all 13-year old children at schools in the town who were found by preliminary testing to have no resistance to the disease.

B.C.G. Vaccine is used for this purpose. This material is obtained from Denmark, and is prepared from a special type of the Tubercle Bacillus which is no longer capable of producing Tuberculosis in man. The vaccine obtained from it, however, will produce a satisfactory active immunity to the disease.

(e) Ambulance Services.

There were no changes in the Ambulance arrangements during the year. The Central Ambulance Depot for the County is in Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331) and all calls for ambulances are dealt with centrally.

Two ambulances and a car for sitting cases are stationed in Bridgnorth.

(f) Domestic Help Service.

The Domestic Help Office at Bridgnorth Welfare Centre is open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 2.15 till 4.30 p.m. The telephone number is Bridgnorth 3078.

SECTION CSANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

The Public Health Inspector reports as follows:-

WATER SUPPLIESMains Supply

The supply from Rindleford borehole has continued to be satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. The average amount extracted per day was 460,540 gallons, compared with the 1957 daily average of 451,000 gallons. The maximum delivery available from the existing pumping installation is 768,000 gallons per day.

Three samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological analysis and were found satisfactory.

Chemical Analysis

Regular sampling of water for chemical analysis by the Wolverhampton Corporation was discontinued during the year, it being felt that sufficient information had been obtained during 1957 regarding the chloride content of the supply. (Full details of this problem were contained in the Annual Report for 1957.)

Water Storage

Additional storage space is still urgently required. The need growing each year. This is particularly so in relation to the high level areas on the western side of the Borough where housing development is likely to occur. The reserve here is as little as an hour's supply.

Re-Grouping of Water Undertakings

Agreement was reached with the Minister during the year on the merging of the Corporation's water undertaking with that of Wolverhampton, and a draft agreement was prepared giving the operative date as 1st April, 1959.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It is disappointing to report that the works still fail to give satisfaction in regard to the quality of the effluent and their failure to dry the sludge adequately.

In relation to the latter problem, an enquiry was held at Bridgnorth on 20th December, 1957, attended by an engineering inspector from the Ministry. The findings were unproductive, the Minister's report only expressing the opinion that the cost of sludge disposal here compared favourably with that of similar authorities. The Severn River Board expressed their dissatisfaction with the quality of the effluent reaching the river and the matter was pursued with the Council's consultant engineers.

There was no progress made with the provision of a scheme for Quatford, or with the Hospital Street relief sewer scheme.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The protracted search for a new site for High Town conveniences continued during the year. The Council eventually obtained planning consent in respect of premises in Listley Street, near the junction with High Street, and a lease was negotiated with the owners. It is hoped that the next Annual Report will include an item on the completion of the conversion.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The search for a new tip site was continued and became more pressing than ever because of the likelihood of the early filling up of the Stanley Lane site. Sites were considered in various parts of the district, including Burcote Lane and Eardington, but in all cases there was at least one major obstacle which appeared insuperable.

The Council eventually considered a site on the Old Worcester Road, for which planning consent was received, subject to stringent conditions. Negotiations for the acquisition of this site were then set in motion.

PEST CONTROL

The arrangements for control of pests continued as previously, the Borough sharing the services of a Rodent Operative with the Borough of Wenlock. The operation of this system remained satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

By the provisions of Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, the Council is responsible for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary conveniences in all factories within the Borough, and in those factories in which mechanical power is not used, is also responsible for inspecting the premises to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory.

Part VIII of the Act also gives the Council the responsibility for ensuring that premises in which any persons are employed as outworkers are not injurious or dangerous to health.

The following tables give the details which require to be included in the Annual Report:-

	No. on Register	Inspec-tions	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	8	2	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	28	3	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	5	-	-
TOTAL	65	41	5	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Re-med-ied	Referred			
			To H.M. Inspec-tor	By H.M. Inspec-tor		
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	2	-	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-	
Sanitary Conveniences insufficient	1	1	-	-	-	
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2	-	-	-	
TOTAL	5	5	-	2	-	

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

(Sections 110 & 111)

Nature of work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending list to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome-premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing (Making Apparel, etc.)	1	-	-	-	-	-

SECTION D.HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses	2,250
" " Council-owned houses	562
" " houses completed in 1958	27
(a) Council - 0	
(b) Private - 27	
" " houses under construction at 31.12.58.	104
(a) Council - 17	
(b) Private - 87	
" " applications for Council houses at 31.12.58	150
" " " " Improvement Grants in 1958	2
" " " " approved for Grant	2

After an interval of almost 3 years, the Council decided in mid-1958 to resume its house-building programme.

This decision followed advice from the Ministry that, owing to restrictions on capital expenditure, Authorities wishing to build in 1958 should submit their proposals without delay, indicating the number of houses to be erected for general needs, for slum-clearance, and for old people.

An estimate of 100 houses was accordingly submitted, of which 40 would be for general needs, 40 for slum-clearance, and 20 for old people.

The Ministry, however, would only allow us 45 (later amended to 46) and stipulated that these should be put into contract before the end of the year.

A revised fixed- price tender from Gregory Housing Ltd. for the construction of 46 houses on the Grove Estate was therefore received and accepted. Building was not commenced before the end of the year.

Of the 46, 26 were to be for slum-clearance and 20 for general needs.

The completion of the Grove Estate having been settled, sites for future building had to be found. By the end of the year it had been decided that an extension of the Sydney Cottage Estate towards Tasley Bank should be made, and that about 50 houses should be erected there for a start.

At the beginning of 1958, the number of applications for Council houses , in hand, totalled 350, but it was clear that this figure did not represent a true picture of the existing demand.

To clarify the position, fresh applications were requested from all applicants. Only some 150 forms were returned.

Private building took place on a large scale in 1958. 87 houses were completed, the great majority of which were on the new Farmlands Estate at the top of Tasley Bank. When finished, this scheme will comprise 90 dwellings.

Grouped Dwellings for Old People

Further consideration was given to this scheme in the early months of the year, and a contract was eventually signed for the erection of 17 bungalows (one of which was to accommodate the Warden) and a Communal Room, on the Sydney Cottage Estate.

Building had begun before the end of December.

Slum Clearance

As a result of the Council's decision to proceed with the erection of additional houses, and to set aside a certain number of these for slum-clearance purposes, the Public Health Committee was able to give further consideration to the slum-clearance problem.

From a preliminary survey, it was estimated that at least 400 houses in the town could be classed as substandard.

For a start, it was decided that Foundry Yard and Orchard Row should each be declared a Clearance Area, and statutory action was accordingly taken in respect of both.

Many of the objections received by the Minister in connection with Clearance Area procedure are from tenants who maintain that they are perfectly happy to remain where they are, and can see no reason for moving. Often their real worry is that they can't afford the rent of a new Council house.

Even when subsidised by the effect of the Exchequer slum clearance grant, this rent will be greatly in excess of what the tenant has been paying for his substandard home. He feels that an intolerable financial burden is about to be imposed on him, and his reaction to this is understandable.

Such objectors are frequently elderly people, to whom the idea of accepting a National Assistance grant to help to pay their rent would be quite abhorrent.

Improvement Grants

The Improvement Grants scheme has never been popular in the Borough. Since its introduction in the Housing Act, 1949, only 21 applications have been made to the Authority for grants, and of these only 16 could be approved.

Two applications were received in 1958, and both were approved.

It may be that "Standard Grants" under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, will have more appeal to property owners. Under this new Act, the owner of a house built prior to 1945 may obtain a grant from his Local Authority towards the provision of certain specified amenities, i.e. bath, wash-basin, water-closet, hot-water supply, and food-storage facilities. Local Authorities will be obliged to make these grants to applicants, provided that they are satisfied about certain conditions concerning the house.

Individual Unfit Houses

Action taken in 1958 to deal with unfit houses:-

(1) Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	3
(2) " " " closed under Sections 16(4), 17 (1), and 35(1) of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	1
(3) Number of unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied				
(a) after informal action by Local Authority	...	...	...	52
(b) after formal notice under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	14
(4) Number of unfit houses licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53, Housing Act, 1957.	...			6

Rent Act, 1957.

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair in respect of two properties were received during 1958. Both were granted.

SECTION EINSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMEAT INSPECTION

The table below gives details of the animals slaughtered for human consumption in the town during the year.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	204	0	5	1,092	1,300	0
Number inspected	204	0	5	1,092	1,300	0
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis and</u> <u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Whole carcases con- demned	0	0	0	3	1	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	0	0	0	21	0
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	2.45%	0	0	.28%	1.69%	0
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcases con- demned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or whole was condemned	1	0	0	0	18	0
Percentage of the number inspected infected with T.B.	0.49%	0	0	0	1.38%	0
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrig- eration	0	0	0	0	0	0
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	0

There were three licensed slaughterhouses in the town in 1958. Five were licensed in 1957, though only four were in regular use.

It was possible again to achieve 100% meat inspection, after only 75% (owing to reduction in staff) in 1957.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

It is an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for a retailer to have, on his premises, food which is unfit for human consumption. It is the usual practice for retailers to report the existence of doubtful food to the Inspector, who, if he condemns this, issues a Surrender Certificate enabling the retailer to claim compensation for his loss.

The following quantities of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption in 1958:-

Prepared and Cooked Meats

Bacon	-	6 lbs	
Sausage	-	46 lbs	8 ozs
Ham	-	59 lbs	6 ozs
Pies	-	6 lbs	
Meat Paste	-		3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs

Canned and Potted Foods

Fish	-	16 lbs	7 ozs
Vegetables	-	138 lbs	
Fruit	-	364 lbs	12 ozs
Meat	-	196 lbs	13 ozs
Milk	-	5 lbs	14 ozs
Coffee	-		3 ozs
Soups	-	23 lbs	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs
Pickles	-		11 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs

Other Foods

Fish (Smoked)	-	42 lbs	
Cakes	-	12 lbs	
Cheese	-	50 lbs	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs
Sweets	-		4 ozs
Cereals	-	.2 lbs	11 ozs
Butter	-	4 lbs	
Margarine	-	1 lb	
Dried Fruit	-	50 lbs	
Cordials	-	4 pints	

Condemned food is conveyed to the refuse tip, and either buried, or burned in the incinerator.

MILK

Milk producers in the Borough in 1958	-	13
Registered Dairies	-	4
Licensed Dealers (trading from registered dairies)	-	4
Licensed Dealers (trading from other shops)	-	5
Dealers holding Supplementary Licenses (trading in the town from other districts)	-	2

Supervision of milk production is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Council, as Local Sanitary Authority, keeps the register of all dairies in the Borough, and issues licenses to traders selling milk in the area.

It is anticipated that during 1959 the County of Shropshire will become an area in which only designated milks may be sold.

ICE CREAM

An additional two premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream in 1958. The total number of registered premises in the town was 54.

FOOD HYGIENE

Routine visits to food premises were continued during the year, and the attention of occupiers drawn to any contraventions of the Regulations which were found to exist.

SECTION FINFECTIOUS DISEASES

Only six notifications of cases of Infectious Disease were received throughout the whole of 1958. The cases were as follows:-

Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	5
Whooping-Cough	-	1

This must be a record low total, and is certainly by far the lowest in any year for which statistics are readily available.

TuberculosisRespiratory Tuberculosis

	Added to Register 1958		Removed from Register 1958			Total No. on Register at 31. 12. 58
	New cases	Transfers in	Cured	Died	Transfers out	
Male	3	1	0	0	0	30
Female	2	0	0	1	2	22

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

	Added to Register 1958	Removed from Register 1958	Total No. on Register at 31.12.58
Male	0	0	2
Female	0	0	5

Five fresh cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were diagnosed and notified during the year, (3 males and 2 females). There were 9 in 1957.

There was one death from this disease in 1958.

The total number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, after correction for transfers in and out of the area, was 52 (30 males and 22 females).

Seven cases of the non-respiratory forms of the disease were still on the Register at 31. 12. 58 (2 males, and 5 females) the same total as at the end of 1957.

The incidence of Respiratory Tuberculosis still remains rather high throughout the country, but as a result of modern methods of treatment, the disease is no longer the killing condition it once was.

The provisional death-rate in England and Wales in 1958 was 89 per million persons - a decrease of 6% compared with 1957.

Since 1948 the annual death-rate has dropped by almost 80%.

It is hoped that B.C.G. Vaccination of the 13 year age-group each year will, in time, help to reduce the incidence of the disease by giving protection to young people before they reach the age at which they are most likely to contract infection.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases

Reference has already been made in Section B to the Immunisation and Vaccination procedures available for the protection of infants and children, against various infectious diseases.

Information and advice about vaccination against small-pox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping-cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis are sent to the parents of all infants born in the County, by the County Health Department.

